

SHEILA JACKSON LEE
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Washington, DC 20515

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OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Migration

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting Funding for the Japhet Creek Trail and Park Phase 2 in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Buffalo Bayou Partnership, located at 1019 Commerce Street, Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77002.

The funding would be used for the construction phase activities associated with the restoration of the natural spring-fed Japhet Creek to provide trails, pedestrian bridges, boardwalks, wildflower meadows, and wetland remediation improvements. The project will address local water quality issues related to urban runoff pollution and creek health, promote environmental conservation and stewardship, and connect the Fifth Ward to the Buffalo Bayou Trail and Park system. The site's major trail will provide a link from the intersection of Billy and Emile Streets to and across Buffalo Bayou to the south and will make 40 acres of park space accessible to the Fifth Ward. This request is for \$4M in Housing and Urban Development funding through the Economic Development Initiative (EDI) account. The Partnership is committed to providing the local cost share for any funding awarded. The total estimated construction cost of this project is \$12M.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because will benefit a historically underserved community within the Fifth Ward and the East End through the transformation of an underutilized post-industrial area into a publicly accessible outdoor park space. Japhet Creek Park will ultimately become a unique regional activity center and community attractor. The project will also enable connections between the Fifth Ward and a variety of other Buffalo Bayou East improvements underway. This project is anticipated to generate specific benefits in the areas of: economic development, active transportation, underserved communities and resiliency and sustainability.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305 (a) (1).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sheila Jackson Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sheila" being the most prominent.

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress